

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 19390 131143Z

11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 CG-00 COME-00 EB-11

JUSE-00 SCA-01 SCS-03 AID-20 DRC-01 /162 W

----- 110051

R 131110Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8972

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USDAO SAIGON

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DAO FOR AOSMS, AOSDC, AND AOSND

E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: MILL VS

SUBJECT: SAPPER ATTACKS ON U.S. SHIPS

REF: A. STATE 221114

B. SAIGON 18764

C. NIS INFORMATION REPORT (SUBIC BAY) DTG

30/0802Z OCT 73 (NOTAL)

1. IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST CONTAINED REFTTEL A, FOLLOWING INFO CONCERNING THREE SUSPECTED HOSTILE ACTION WATER MINING INCIDENTS DURING PERIOD OCTOBER 3-21 HAS BEEN DRAWN MAINLY FROM REF C.

A) ON OCTOBER 3 AT 0100 HOURS TUG BOAT "CAPTAIN BLACK" FORMERLY UNDER DIRECTOR OF CONSTRUCTION (DIRCON) RVN CONTRACT SUSTAINED MAJOR DAMAGE AND SANK AS A RESULT OF AN UNDERWATER EXPLOSION. VESSEL WAS MOORED AT A BUOY LOCATED AT MIDSTREAM IN MEKONG RIVER OFF DONG TAM NAVAL BASE NEAR MY THO. VESSEL HAS BEEN RAISED AND IS NOW BEING OVERHAULED.

B) ON OCTOBER 6 AT 0030 HOURS US FLAG CONTAINER SHIP "SS JAPAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEAR" OF THE PACIFIC FAR EAST LINES SUSTAINED MINOR DAMAGE WHILE

ANCHORED AT THIEN LIEN ANCHORAGE ON THE SAIGON RIVER SOME 30 MILES SOUTH OF SAIGON. AN EXPLOSION CAUSED A HOLE 2 FEET 8 INCHES IN DIAMETER IN THE HULL SIX FEET BELOW THE WATERLINE. SHIP SUBSEQUENTLY UNDERWENT TEMPORARY REPAIRS IN VUNG TAU AND THEN PROCEEDED TO HONG KONG VIA SUBIC BAY.

C) ON OCTOBER 21 AT 0750 HOURS POWER SHIP "CANEEY" SUSTAINED MINOR DAMAGE AS THE RESULT OF AN UNDERWATER DETONATION WHICH CAUSED A 4 INCH DIAMETER HOLE IN THE STARBOARD BOW ABOUT 6 INCHES BELOW THE WATERLINE. VESSEL WAS MOORED NEAR THE DELONG PIER AT THE FORMER ALASKA BARGE AND TRANSPORT BEACH SITE IN VUNG TAU. THE VESSEL WAS AT ONE TIME UTILIZED BY A US CONTRACTOR IN THE RVN, BUT WAS NO LONGER IN USE.

2. AS A RESULT OF THESE INCIDENTS, THE MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND SAIGON HAS RECOMMENDED MSC INTEREST SHIPS CALLING AT RVN INSTITUTE APPROPRIATE SECURITY MEASURES (REF B):  
APPLING

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SPARE PARTS, GROUND COMBAT OPERATIONS, NAVAL SHIPS, PORT AUTHORITY  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 NOV 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973SAIGON19390  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** SAIGON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19731137/aaaabazx.tel  
**Line Count:** 78  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** A. STATE 221114  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 JUL 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <30-Jul-2001 by kellew0>; APPROVED <02-Jan-2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

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30 JUN 2005

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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SAPPER ATTACKS ON U.S. SHIPS  
**TAGS:** MILI, MOPS, VS, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005